



CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS
Serving the 5th Congressional District of Georgia

THE HIGHER EDUCATION DREAM ACT OF 2018

On July 25, 2018, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) introduced the Higher Education Dream Act of 2018. This bill responds to discriminatory actions towards DREAMer students seeking to continue their studies at college or university.

BILL SUMMARY

The Higher Education Dream Act would prohibit institutions of higher education receiving Federal funds from refusing to admit, enroll, or grant in-state tuition to qualified students based on their immigration status.

BACKGROUND

In 1982, the Supreme Court decided in *Plyler v. Doe* to allow undocumented students to attend public elementary and secondary schools but remained silent on the question of higher education. As a result, there are patchwork policies that vary state-by-state, which make it difficult, if not impossible, for DREAMers to access higher education.

Currently, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina bar undocumented students from enrolling at public universities. Alabama and South Carolina allow exceptions for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, but Georgia bars DACA recipients from attending the University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Georgia College.

State and university system policies can change suddenly, which results in uncertainty and despair for aspiring students. For example, a 2015 Missouri law ended DACA students' eligibility for in-state tuition. Eighteen states either prohibit DREAMers from receiving in-state tuition or lack a formal law or policy, and seven others deny in-state tuition to some students.

This legislation provides clear standards and hope for those seeking to realize the American Dream.

RELATED LEGISLATION

Congressman Lewis is a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3440, the DREAM Act, which would provide legal status and a path to citizenship for those brought to the United States as children. He is also a cosponsor of H.R. 3591, the American Hope Act, making DREAMers eligible for Federal student aid.

Rep. Lewis is an outspoken advocate for the rights and dignity of immigrants. He believes there should be no disparity or question in respecting the human dignity and worth of any person. As Congress continues to debate long-term protections and a path to citizenship for DREAMers and other undocumented people, it should consider ways to meet all of this community's needs.

The Higher Education Dream Act complements these initiatives.